

Message Text

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ACTION L-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 IO-10 AID-05 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 COA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-01 INR-07

NSF-01 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-03 RSC-01 OES-03 SS-15 SP-02

FEAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 DOTE-00 FMC-01 CG-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8969

INFO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USUN NEW YORK 524

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PLOS EWWT MY SN ID

SUBJ: TRIPARTITE MEETING ON MALACCA STRAIT

REF: A. KL 533

B. KL 350

1. SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTERS OF MALAYSIA, INDONESIA AND SINGAPORE WILL MEET IN SINGAPORE ON FEB 17-18 OR 19-20 TO DISCUSS LIMITATION ON TANKERS PASSING THROUGH SINGAPORE AND MALACCA STRAITS, AND COMPENSATION FOR SHOWA MARU OIL SPILL. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESS REPORTS FEB. 3 INDICATE MEETING OF IMS FONMINS WILL TAKE PLACE FEB 17-18. INDONESIAN EMBASSY MINISTER-COUNSELLOR SUROSO TOLD EMBOFF FEB. 4 THAT GOS IS HOLDING OUT FOR FEB 19-20, BUT FONMIN MALIK WILL BE BUSY IN JAKARTA WITH
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AUSTRALIAN VISITORS ON THOSE DAYS. SUROSO ALSO SAID THAT SENIOR FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WILL MEET IN SINGAPORE FEB 13-

14 FOR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS. ISSUES, ACCORDING TO SUROSO, ARE IMPOSITION OF LIMIT FOR LARGE TANKERS TRANSITING STRAITS, EITHER 200,000 TON CEILING OR MAXIMUM DRAFT (WHICH SUROSO THOUGHT MORE LIKELY); AND FORMULATION OF CLAIMS FOR SHOWA MARU OIL SPILL. SUROSO SAID THAT FONMINS' MEETING WOULD NOT RPT NOT DISCUSS OTHER ASPECTS OF STRAITS NAVIGATION (E.G., TRAFFIC SEPARATION, NAVIGATIONAL AIDS) THAT ARE BEING CONSIDERED IN CONNECTION WITH HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY. (JAPANESE EMBOFF TOLD US FEB. 3 THAT IMS HYDROGRAPHIC EXPERTS ARE NOW MEETING IN TOKYO TO REFINE HYDROGRAPHIC DATA AND TO CONSIDER TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF TRAFFIC CONTROL.)

3. REGARDING LIKELY OUTCOME OF SINGAPORE TALKS, SUROSO SAID GOI AND GOM HOPE THAT SINGAPORE WILL AGREE TO LIMITATION ON TANKER SIZE AS PRACTICAL MATTER OF PREVENTING RECURRENCE OF SERIOUS OIL SPILL, RATHER THAN CONSIDER IT AS RECOGNITION OF INDONESIAN AND MALAYSIAN TERRITORIAL CLAIMS TO MALACCA STRAIT. ALSO, SUROSO OPINED THAT SINGAPORE MAY BE MORE RECEPTIVE TO TONNAGE OR DRAFT LIMITATION BECAUSE SHOWA MARU SPILL RESULTED IN "SUBSTANTIAL" POLLUTION TO SINGAPORE STRAIT AND ITS COASTLINE.

4. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF LOCAL GOVT AND ENVIRONMENT DATUK ONG KEE HUI TOLD PRESS JAN 30 THAT CABINET WILL SHORTLY APPROVE US\$10 MILLION GOM CLAIM AGAINST SHOWA MARU OWNERS FOR OIL SPILL DAMAGE. HE SAID SPILLAGE ENTERED MALAYSIAN WATERS AS FAR NORTH AS PONTIAN, ABOUT 20 MILES NORTH OF KUKUP ISLAND, JOHORE. ONG ALSO SAID THAT REPORTS ON EFFECTS OF OIL SPILLAGE SHOWED THAT TWO-THIRDS OF FISH CATCH IN SOUTHWEST JOHORE AREA WOULD BE LOST IN THE FIRST YEAR AND ONE-THIRD IN SECOND YEAR.

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